

V I R G I N I A:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL BOARD

IN RE:

Application of Helen B. Leonard, et al, the heirs at law of the Whitt Rasnick Estate for Forced Pooling of Interests in a Drilling Unit Affected by Proposed Well Number PC-320, VGOB-0326-86 in the Castlewood Magisterial District of Russell County, Virginia

THIS CAUSE CAME on this 21st day of May, 1991, upon the request by Helen B. Leonard, et al, that this Board establish a drilling unit for the production of coalbed methane gas from the areas surrounding Equitable Resources Exploration's Well No. PC-320.

The Petitioner's Motion requested that the Board pool all the interests in the area surrounding Well No. PC-320 for the production of coalbed methane from the proposed unit in the Castlewood Magisterial District of Russell County, Virginia; and, that the Virginia Gas and Oil Board designate Equitable Resources Exploration as the well operator.

Notice of the filing of the Motion herein and of the time, date and place of the hearing thereon was duly and properly given to potential well operators having an interest in the coalbed methane underlying the area at issue, as required by Section 45.1-361.19 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended.

The Board has examined the Notice as given and further conducted inquiry into the sufficiency of Helen B. Leonard's

search to determine names and whereabouts of potential well operators who may be affected by the pooling of the coalbed methane gas interest involved herein. The Board approved the Notice as given.

It appearing to the Board that Petitioner hereto, Helen B. Leonard, et al, has by letters dated December 13, 1990 and January 17, 1991, requested that this Board pool all interests and create a drilling unit for Equitable Resources Exploration Well No. PC-320, and designate Equitable Resources Exploration as unit operator.

Equitable Resources Exploration, by counsel, appeared and moved the Board to dismiss this matter. Equitable Resources Exploration contended that Helen B. Leonard, et al, failed to comply with provisions of the Virginia Gas and Oil Act and Virginia Gas and Oil Regulation Section 480-05-22.2, and has failed to provide all necessary documentation, including, but not limited to, plats, estimates of well costs, estimated well reserves and a description of the area to be pooled.

Based upon evidence presented, the Board finds that Helen B. Leonard's letters of December 13, 1990 and January 17, 1991 do not contain sufficient information from which this Board can compel creation of a coalbed methane production unit. The letters, standing alone, do not constitute a complete application. An applicant for creation of a unit is required to comply with the Virginia Gas and Oil Act, Virginia Gas and Oil

Regulations, and Rules of this Board, and supply all essential and necessary information supporting their prayer for relief.

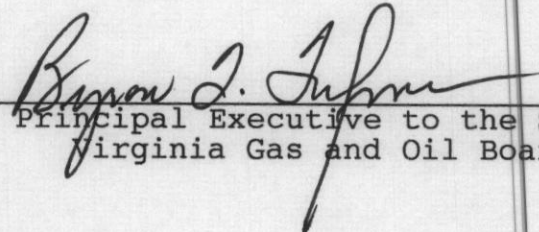
Accordingly, it is ORDERED that VGOB Docket No. 0326-86 be and hereby is dismissed.

Copies of this Order shall be mailed to Donald R. Johnson, Esquire, P. O. Box 535, Bristol, VA 24203, counsel for Helen B. Leonard, et al and a copy to Richard A. Counts, Esquire, P. O. Box 298, Kingsport, TN 37662, counsel for Equitable Resources Exploration.

Done and executed this 16th day of October, 1991, by a majority of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board.


CHAIRMAN

Done and performed this 16th day of October, 1991, by Order of this Board.


Principal Executive to the Staff
Virginia Gas and Oil Board

State of Virginia
County of Washington

Acknowledged on this 16th day of October, 1991, personally before me a notary public in and for the State of Virginia appeared Benny Wampler, being duly sworn did depose and say that he is Chairman of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board, that he executed the same and was authorized to do so.

Diane J. Davis

Diane Davis
Notary Public
My commission expires 9/23/92

State of Virginia
County of Washington

Acknowledged on this 16th day of October, 1991, personally before me a notary public in and for the State of Virginia appeared Byron Thomas Fulmer, being duly sworn did depose and say that he is Principal Executive to the Staff of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board, that he executed the same and was authorized to do so.

Diane J. Davis

Diane Davis
Notary Public
My commission expires 9/23/92